

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND PETITION

Attorney Docket No.: GIC-649

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As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

SOFTWARE-CODE CONFIGURABLE DIGITAL APPLIANCE

the specification of which:

☒ is attached hereto
☐ was filed on _____ as United States Application Number _____ or
PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to be material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

			Priority Claimed
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ Month/Day/Year Filed	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ Month/Day/Year Filed	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date)
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I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s); or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application
or PCT Parent Number

Parent Filing Date
(MM/DD/YYYY)

Parent Patent Number
(if applicable)

SOFTWARE-CODE CONFIGURABLE DIGITAL APPLIANCE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to networked digital consumer appliances, such as television settop boxes, and more particularly to apparatus and methods for automatically
5 configuring such appliances for operation within any one of multiple network environments.

The communication of digital cable services from program providers to end-users is accomplished through several steps. The first involves transmission of the digitally encoded services from broadcast service providers to cable service provider facilities.

10 The second step involves manipulating video and audio data by the digital cable service provider using head-end equipment at their facility. The final step involves transmission of digital information to the end-user via a coaxial cable and decoding the transmission at the consumers' site. Head-end equipment at a cable operator facility provides received programs on specific channels that are broadcast to customers over copper cable and/or
15 fiber optic cable, typically via hybrid fiber-cable (HFC) distribution plants. A settop box located at the customer facility tunes and decodes incoming broadcasts. The settop boxes tune to a desired channel frequency and modulate the received signal onto an unused television channel (usually channel 3 or 4). An example of such a settop box is the Model DCT 2000 manufactured by the Broadband Communications Sector of Motorola,
20 Inc., Horsham, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Firmware and application software provided within the settop box performs the functions of booting the settop system, displaying user-accessible software functions, and displaying menus for program guides. Consumer products, such as audio/video receivers and DVD players also contain software code for feature implementation. Settop cable
25 television decoders may be designed to work with a number of different cable television protocols. Each environment (e.g., each different cable network) may require different operation and communication parameters, which may, in turn, require a software or

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

And I hereby appoint: Barry R. Lipsitz, Registration No. 28,637 and Douglas M. McAllister, Registration No. 37,886, of the firm of Barry R. Lipsitz, Attorney at Law, 755 Main Street, Bldg. 8, Monroe, Connecticut 06468. Telephone (203) 459-0200, my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Wherefore I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, and I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

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Inventor's Signature Albert F. Elcock Date: 9-10-01

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